

## INFORMATION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY China/Switzerland/Germany

DATE DISTR. 30 OCT 50

SUBJECT Purchasing Agent for the Chinese Communist Government

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PLACE 25X1C

ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF  
INFO.

September 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. Gerhard Ludwig Flatow, born on 1 December 1910 in Berlin, has resided for over twenty years in Tientsin, China, where he is engaged in the export-import business. Since the advent of the Communist Government in China, Flatow has acted as purchasing agent for the Communists in Western Europe through his office in Tientsin. Flatow arrived in Europe at the beginning of September 1950 to renew contacts in Switzerland, England, and Germany, and to follow up deals for which preliminary contracts had been drawn up in China. He came to Europe with extensive lists of Chinese requirements in the machine, metals, and automotive fields. He was traveling on a document issued by the French Consulate in Tientsin which had been validated for travel in Europe, including Germany.
2. Flatow's known business contacts in Europe are as follows:

E. Ott & Co., a Swiss export-import firm with its main offices in Hong Kong but with a branch in Zurich at Ramistr. 6.

Otto Wolff, Cologne, Germany.

Hans Luss, who was originally German and was educated in Switzerland; for many years he was in England where he became naturalized; he is in the export branch of the Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.
3. While in Zurich Flatow stayed at the Hotel Rex, Weinbergstr. 92. He had originally intended to meet Luss in England but met him instead in Zurich. With Luss he chiefly discussed a deal whereby Imperial Chemical, through Flatow, was to supply the Chinese with immense quantities of copper sheeting. Since this deal had become publicly known and was about to create a scandal, it appeared impossible to carry it through for the moment.
4. Around mid-September Flatow intended to go to Germany to meet his contacts in the steel industry in Dusseldorf and Cologne but was unable to procure a permit for travel. He then left Switzerland for Italy with Luss, intending to proceed to England from where he hoped to be able to arrange entry to Germany.

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